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title: Regarding creation of New Railway Zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Madam, I am thankful to you, for allowing me to raise an urgent matter of public importance during Zero Hour.

The Government of India had assured, in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, that a new Railway Zone will be set up in Andhra Pradesh comprising three Divisions, namely, Vijayawada, Guntur and Guntakal, and the Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway.

For almost a decade now, there has been a demand for a new Railway Zone with Visakhapatnam as its headquarters, as the present Waltair Division is the highest revenue earner in the East Coast Railway Zone. The total earnings of the Waltair Division was about Rs. 6,280 crore in 2013-14, which is about 50 per cent of the total annual revenue of the East Cost Railway Zone.

Respected Madam, Visakhapatnam has a natural advantage of having two major ports. Abundant land bank is readily available near the Visakhapatnam Railway Station. So, the Waltair Division has the biggest loco shed and an excellent coach maintenance depot.

As we all know, Visakhapatnam is the fastest growing city in Asia having several reputed organizations like Eastern Naval Command, NSTL, BHEL, BARC, HPCL Refinery, Hinduja Power Project etc., and the present Waltair Railway Division has all medical, educational, sports infrastructure etc. to meet the requirement of the New Railway Zone.

After the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the formation of a new Railway Zone in Andhra Pradesh has become imperative as the headquarters of the South Central Railway is located at Secunderabad of Telangana State. It is obvious to integrate the three Divisions of South Central Railway with Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway and give Andhra Pradesh a new Railway Zone to give fillip to its economy. Of course, Visakhapatnam is the ideal choice for locating the Headquarters of the proposed new Railway Zone.

In view of the natural advantages, I urge upon the Government of India to announce the creation of a new Railway Zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam without any further delay. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER:

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao.

जीरो ऑवर में अपनी बात को बहुत प्रिसाइसली रखना चाहिए।